

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of partitioning node controllers without maintaining coherency, comprising:

partitioning a plurality of node controllers  
5 connected by a network into a plurality of partitioned groups;

requesting a latest copy of a line in memory by a requesting node controller;

identifying a storing node controller in a  
10 partitioned group holding the latest copy of the line in memory;

determining that the partitioned group associated with the storing node controller is not the partitioned group associated with the requesting node controller;

15 transmitting a request for a coherent copy of a line to the storing node controller; and

transmitting the latest copy of the line to the requesting node controller without including the requestor in a sharer-tracking process.

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2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining at least two partitioned groups; and

associating each node controller with a partitioned group.

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3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the request for the coherent copy outside a partitioned group is a GET request.

4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
determining where the latest copy of a line is  
stored; and

communicating the request from the requesting node  
5 controller to the storing node controller.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein determining where  
the latest copy of a line is stored further comprises:

identifying all node controllers which maintain a  
10 copy of the line in memory; and

comparing the dates on which the requested line has  
been changed at each node controller.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the requesting  
15 node controller and the storing node controller are not  
marked as sharers and are not notified of subsequent  
changes to the line made by the requesting node  
controller.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the line held by  
20 the storing node controller is in an exclusive state and  
neither the state of the line at the storing node  
controller nor the state of the line at the requesting  
node controller are changed.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the line held by  
25 the storing node controller is in an exclusive state and  
the state of the line at the storing node controller is  
changed but the state of the line at the requesting node  
30 controller is not changed.

9. A system operable to partition node controllers without maintaining coherency, comprising:

a plurality of node controllers including a requesting node controller and a storing node controller  
5 in a computer system;

a plurality of partitions separating node controllers into at least two partitioned groups;

a get message operable to communicate across partitions.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the requesting node controller and the storing node controller are in different partitioned groups.

11. The system of Claim 9, wherein the get message requests the latest copy of a line.

12. The system of Claim 10, wherein the requesting node controller and the storing node controller are not marked as sharers and are not notified of subsequent changes to the line made by the requesting node controller.

13. The system of Claim 10, wherein the requested line is held by the storing node controller in an exclusive state and neither the state of the line at the storing node controller nor the state of the line at the requesting node controller is changed.

14. The system of Claim 10, wherein the requested line is held by the storing node controller in an exclusive state and the state of the line at the storing node controller is changed but the state of the line at the requesting node controller is not changed.

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